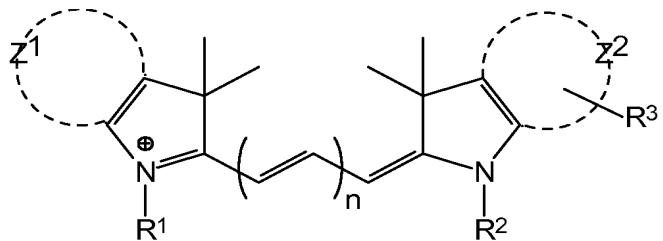


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A matched set of fluorescent dyes comprising two or more different fluorescent dyes of formula (I):

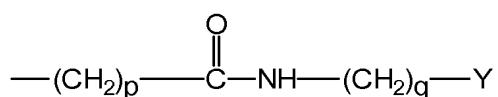


(I)

wherein n is different for each said dye and is 1, 2, or 3;

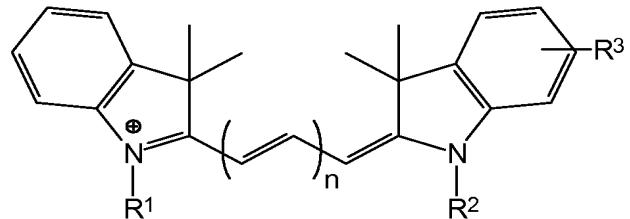
Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> independently represent the carbon atoms necessary to complete a phenyl or naphthyl ring system;

one of groups R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is the group:



where Y is a target bonding group and in each dye of the set of dyes is the same and is selected from the group consisting of maleimido groups and iodoacetamido groups; remaining group R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>-W or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-H; group R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, except when either R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-H, in which case R<sup>3</sup> is W; W is selected from sulphonic acid and sulphonate; p is an integer from 3 to 6; q is 2 or 3; and r is an integer from 1 to 5; and salts thereof; and further wherein when n of two of said dyes differs by +1, one of p, q and r of said two dyes differs by -1.

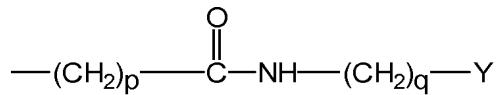
Claim 2 (currently amended): A matched set of fluorescent dyes comprising at least two different fluorescent dyes of formula (II):



(II)

wherein n is different for each said dye and is 1, 2, or 3;

one of groups R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is the group:



where Y is a target bonding group and in each dye of the set of dyes is the same and is selected from the group consisting of maleimido groups and iodoacetamido groups;

remaining group R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>-W or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-H;

group R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, except when either R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-H, in which case R<sup>3</sup> is W;

W is selected from sulphonic acid and sulphonate;

p is an integer from 3 to 6;

q is 2 or 3; and

r is an integer from 1 to 5;

and salts thereof;

and further wherein when n of two of said dyes differs by +1, one of p, q and r of said two dyes differs by -1.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The matched set of dyes of claim 1 or claim 2 comprising at least two different fluorescent dyes wherein:

n is 1 or 2;

p is 4 or 5;

q is 2 or 3; and

r is 1, 2 or 3.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The matched set of dyes of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 or claim 2, wherein in each said dye Y is a maleimido group.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The matched set of dyes of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said salts are selected from salts  $K^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $NH_4^+$ , or containing  $R_3NH^+$  and  $R_4N^+$  wherein R is C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A matched set of dyes selected from the group consisting of:

Set 1

1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-2-[(1*E*,3*E*)-3-(1-ethyl-3,3-dimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)prop-1-enyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-indolium (Compound I); and  
1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1*E*,3*E*,5*E*)-5-(1,3,3-trimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)penta-1,3-dienyl]-3*H*-indolium (Compound II);

Set 2

1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-2-[(1*E*,3*E*)-3-(1-propyl-3,3-dimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)prop-1-enyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-indolium (Compound III); and  
1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1*E*,3*E*,5*E*)-5-(1-ethyl-3,3-trimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)penta-1,3-dienyl]-3*H*-indolium (Compound IV);

Set 3

1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-2-[(1*E*,3*E*)-3-(1-ethyl-3,3-dimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)prop-1-enyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-indolium (Compound I); and  
1-(5-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxopentyl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1*E*,3*E*,5*E*)-5-(1-ethyl-3,3-trimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)penta-1,3-dienyl]-3*H*-indolium (Compound V);

Set 4

1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-2-[(1*E*,3*E*)-3-(3,3-dimethyl(1-sulpho-butyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)prop-1-enyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-indolium (Compound VI); and

1-(5-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxopentyl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1*E*,3*E*,5*E*)-5-(3,3-dimethyl-(1-sulpho-butyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)penta-1,3-dienyl]-3*H*-indolium (~~Compound VII~~); (Compound VII);

Set 5

1-(6-{[3-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)propyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-2-[(1*E*,3*E*)-3-(1-ethyl-3,3-dimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)prop-1-enyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-indolium (Compound VIII); and  
1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1*E*,3*E*,5*E*)-5-(1-ethyl-3,3-trimethyl-5-sulpho-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)penta-1,3-dienyl]-3*H*-indolium (Compound IV); and

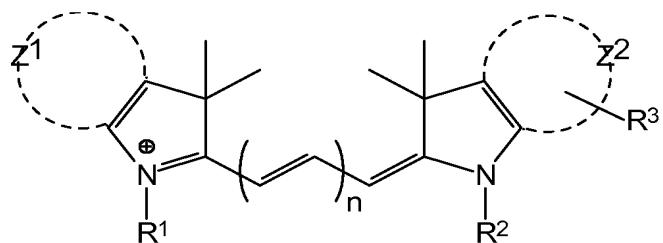
Set 6

1-(6-{[3-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)propyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-2-[(1*E*,3*E*)-3-(3,3-dimethyl(1-sulpho-butyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)prop-1-enyl]-3,3-dimethyl-3*H*-indolium (Compound IX); and  
1-(6-{[2-(2,5-dioxo-2,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrrol-1-yl)ethyl]amino}-6-oxohexyl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1*E*,3*E*,5*E*)-5-(3,3-dimethyl-(1-sulpho-butyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-ylidene)penta-1,3-dienyl]-3*H*-indolium (Compound X).

Claims 8-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (withdrawn, currently amended): A method for labelling one or more proteins in a sample, the method comprising:

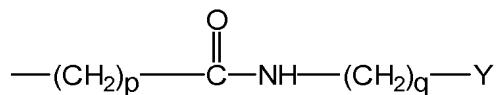
i) adding to a liquid sample containing said one or more proteins a fluorescent dye selected from a matched set of fluorescent dyes each dye in said set having the formula (I):



(I)

wherein n is different for each said dye and is 1, 2, or 3;

$Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  independently represent the carbon atoms necessary to complete a phenyl or naphthyl ring system;  
one of groups  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is the group:



where Y is a target bonding group and in each dye of the set of dyes is the same and is selected from the group consisting of maleimido groups and iodoacetamido groups;

remaining group R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>-W or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-H;

group R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, except when either R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>-H, in which case R<sup>3</sup> is W;

W is selected from sulphonic acid and sulphonate;

p is an integer from 3 to 6;

q is 2 or 3; and

r is an integer from 1 to 5;

and salts thereof;

and further wherein when n of two of said dyes differs by +1, one of p, q and r of said two dyes differs by -1; and

- ii) incubating said dye with said sample under conditions suitable for labelling said one or more proteins.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15, wherein each of Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> represents the carbon atoms necessary to complete a phenyl ring system.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15, wherein:

n is 1 or 2;

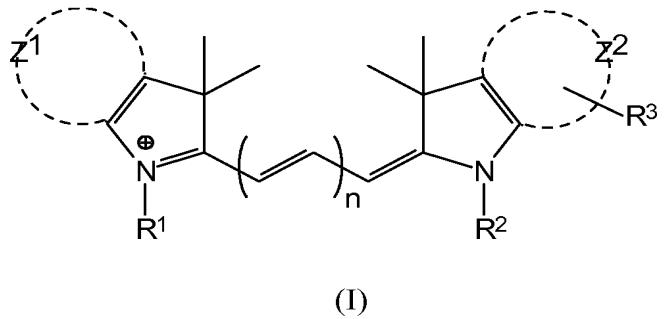
p is 4 or 5;

q is 2 or 3; and

r is 1, 2 or 3.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

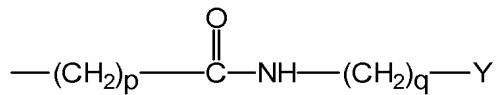
Claim 19 (currently amended): A kit comprising a matched set of fluorescent dyes comprising at least two different fluorescent dyes having the formula (I):



wherein n is different for each said dye and is 1, 2, or 3;

$Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  independently represent the carbon atoms necessary to complete a phenyl or naphthyl ring system;

one of groups  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is the group:



where  $\text{Y}$  is a target bonding group and in each dye of the set of dyes is the same and is selected from the group consisting of maleimido groups and iodoacetamido groups;

remaining group  $R^1$  or  $R^2$  is selected from  $-(\text{CH}_2)_4-\text{W}$  or  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r-\text{H}$ ;

group  $R^3$  is hydrogen, except when either  $R^1$  or  $R^2$  is  $-(\text{CH}_2)_r-\text{H}$ , in which case  $R^3$  is  $\text{W}$ ;

$\text{W}$  is selected from sulphonic acid and sulphonate;

p is an integer from 3 to 6;

q is 2 or 3; and

r is an integer from 1 to 5;

and salts thereof;

and further wherein when n of two of said dyes differs by +1, one of p, q and r of said two dyes differs by -1.